



FYI

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**Planning Board  
Transportation Advisory Committee**

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March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Acton Board of Selectmen  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720

**Re: South Acton Commuter Rail Task Force**

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen:

We propose the formation of a South Acton Commuter Rail Task Force (SACRT) under the leadership of the Transportation Advisory Committee that would create an open process for addressing ongoing issues related to the growing use and popularity of the South Acton train station.

We propose that this task force be short-lived, perhaps meeting for six sessions over six months, and that it provide an opportunity for neighborhood residents, commuters, interested Acton citizens, town staff and liaisons to the MBTA to look at critical issues of long-standing concern in the town. The task force would serve at the behest of the Selectmen, have a Selectmen and Planning Board liaison, and come-up with a list of recommendations or implementation plan. The TAC recommends establishing a baseline, documenting existing conditions as well as proposing short and long-term responses to the numerous issues surrounding the transportation node.

Issues to be addressed include:

- The need for additional parking; the possibility of parking lot expansion currently being examined by Director of Public Works Bruce Stamski and the Conservation Commission, and the pros and cons of such expansion;
- The feasibility of shuttle bus service; as well as re-examining the fee structure for parking and priority parking for carpoolers;
- The possibility of providing heated kiosk/coffee/waiting area at the current station to improve the commuter experience;
- The improvement of publicity and signage about parking/ rail use/ bike lockers as well as pedestrian safety to and from the lot;
- The environmental concerns including the need for the parking lot to conform with new EPA guidelines (NIPDES) for storm water run-off; and preservation of existing green/ rec areas such as Jones Field.

The TAC would be willing to co-ordinate the meetings as well as review existing traffic, parking and train data that are available or readily attainable as part of its role heading up this community forum.

We look forward to Selectmen input on this initiative.

Sincerely,

Lauren Rosenzweig  
Chair, Acton Planning Board

Ann Sussman  
Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee